

Our young people. ^{128 page B3} ~~Younger than old maid~~

Not long
It has been pondering over a volume of old
printed ~~she~~ & found curiously suggestive they are.
Regretful companion, inquiries, speculations,
crowd upon me. & it is not that ^{one} world know
of the course of time ^{did} & retro convert it with
that pair, or of those charming children
grown into graceful womanhood & gentle
manners; pleasant enough are such
visitors for an idle twilight home; but
the thought which preys on me has
long troubled in it. The people in those
pictures are not like the people who walk
in our garden & sit in our rooms; &
they are different, because the former
generation ^{not - now} was graced with some endowment,
too hard to define, which is lacking in our
selves. How quaint are the shy little boy
in short jackets, & the meek maidens, &
the modest youths, how quaint, and - how
refreshing! Does the charm lie in the
fashion of their clothes? No; by an effort
of fancy you may make your maidens
change to short-waisted gowns & the not-
norgaceps garment - such a girl would put
on to-day; she is as lovely as before, but has
not been metamorphosed into a modern
beauty; that different retiring grace is
not the charm ^{wherein} with our girls beauty -
bewitch the world ^{but} they do: and your youth, - you
may shear off his long locks & part his hair
in the middle of his head, he is abashed by
the change, but still regards you with the same

Some gentle, half-deprecating air. Such an aspect is not quite unfamiliar; we meet with it now & then in country old gentlemen & gentlewomen, in whom is yet preserved some sweetness of their youth. And is it not the style of the charmingly mannered persons in the old novels, in the pleasant domestic tales which make the ways of our grand-mothers familiar to us? Your neighbour Charles Howard has looked, while holding gentle converse with his Good Aunt. This 'rose-bud garden of girls' may have sallied forth for an airing after a morning's work in Hamm's Music School-room; they are uneasy enough, but, believe, ~~people~~ there is no abandon of attitude; propriety is not lost sight of for a moment. With such a gentle regard must Miss Austin & Miss Edgeworth's people have met your eye, & with just such modest dignity must they have borne themselves.

The aggressive manners generally show but poorly beside the pleasing repose of this former style. Is it that character also has deteriorated, & that mere women assert themselves in a restless way because they no longer have worth to attract to them the comfortable esteem of their neighbours? I shal not say, for ~~now~~ not even it to our generation to believe that in some way at least we are better than our fathers. And this falling off may it not be merely because manners are no longer held in high repute as an art, ~~one~~ instruction in which should be a principal part of ed.

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education! Our grandmothers were tutored
how to sit, how to stand, how to walk & to
speak, how to comport themselves toward
their elders & betters, their superiors & equals.
They were taught to be solicitous of the
good opinion of high & low. Was she but
brought to a toy-shop, What would the Saleswoman,
think of her? was a question wherein it
concerned the little girl who forgot herself
& behaved unseemly. What would the passers
by think if she raised her voice in the street?
What would uncle or aunt think of a boy
who did not look his friends in the face
Smile reply, respectfully & promptly? The
children of that generation were never suffered
to forget that to be pleasing to every one
was a reward & pleasure itself. Their eyes
than the approval of the carpet & good changes
& friends by becoming better behaved. In order
that they might please, children were
instructed to be observant & attentive
in rendering little services; to be courteous
in speech, & humble in demeanour. In
deed, this was natural, for as all men
were competent to reward him with approbation,
so would all men come to be
regarded by the child as his betters, to
be addressed with a certain difference
of deference. And not only the grown up
people, but his companions, the children
he played with, were erected into the
child's formidable critics. More good
opinion it was well to conciliate by passing

behaviors.

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What an unnatural system, says a mother. Children have faults enough now, but, ~~but~~ they would do everything for effect, not trouble themselves is to whether others think well or ill of them; they act upon their own sweet natural impulses, & no quality is so charming ^{is a child} as this of spontaneity. Well, according to the shewers of their own prophets, I suppose it must be conceded that the dear grandmothers were not quite natural in company. They took civil pains to turn the best side out; they did not yawn in each other's faces, nor loll in public, nor allow conversation to drop because they were ^{inhabitent} too ~~careful~~ ^{careful} to keep it up. They took pains to ~~entertain~~ ^{entertain} themselves & ~~themselves~~ ^{themselves} leave their friends, without consulting their own humours, & no doubt, they brought up their children also to this sort of little social hypocrisy. But it may not be altogether a bad thing ~~now~~ to turn the best side out; good qualities strengthen in the sun air, & to make a child always shew his best side may end in his having ^{no} ~~no~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{display} ~~display~~ ^{side} ~~side~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{exhibit} ~~exhibit~~. When we & they are perfect beings, we may let our children & ~~follow, only, their own inclinations;~~ ^{follow, only, their own inclinations;} natural, ~~but as do what they like, set them~~ ^{but as do what they like, set them} what they ought now, also the child who is allowed to develop himself in his own way, takes no pains to please others or to restrain himself, & grows up in a ^{neat} ~~neat~~ manner.

self-regarding in action.

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No doubt the two orders of things should be

"Noble manners, as the flower
And native growth of noble mind."

The result of the sensitive tact which perceives
that gives pleasure or pain to another, & the
high moral sense which ~~recognizes~~ ^{as} duty in
all small kindly ~~observances~~ ^{observances}: these are
the manners of the ~~better~~ ^{higher} order of beings.
~~who are graced with~~
~~more operations, refinement & gentleness.~~

But, for the rest of the world, there is some-
thing to be said in favor of merely refined
manners. Think how offensive is the
child or youth who has never been trained
in habits of politeness; how obstinately
he disregards ~~the convenience~~ ^{more about him} the comfort
the wishes of ~~peccacious~~ ^{more} ~~but~~ ^{about} him; you
will find him in the easiest-chair in the
room, in the coziest corner, at table, his
preferences all understood, ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~any~~ ^{any}
~~any~~ ^{any} moral more clearly than the ~~as~~
finds its way to his plate; he contrives the
family movements, an early or a late
dinner, a long walk or no walk, these are
settled to further his own plan of his. He
is perfid in plan. This constant habit
regarding himself leads him to think
slightly or not at all of other people;
he shews no reverence, little active
respect; & ~~because~~ ^{being} ~~he is~~ too much, self-
occupied to give to himself the pleasure
or the pains, the desires or the disappointments
of the people he lives with, he is incapable of
sympathy. And yet he ~~may~~ ^{may} show every
good nature about matters which do not affect
him

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he has ~~peculiar~~ ^{edifying} qualities & ~~great~~
personally, ~~which~~ qualities ~~make~~ ^{attract} him
which serve to make him popular. He was
not born a church, but has become so because
he was not brought up in a ^{world} of the, ~~concern~~; ~~of~~ ^{the} world, he has no peer
to offend. Little desire to please, he thinks
'anything becomes him.'

An extraordinary thing is, that the motives
of maternal vanity alone should ~~at~~ cause
mothers to make their children agreeable
to other people. Parents delight in the praises
of their children, yet allow them to
behave in a way which must provoke
censure. "Johnnie, don't tear Mrs. B's dog."
But Johnnie goes on dragging the
visitors ^{butcher} about by its ears & tail;
the little dog yelps, conversation is
interrupted; his mother again ~~causes~~
Johnnie to stop tearing the dog; but
to no effect; the call proves as short one.
Mrs. B. remarks to the next friend
she meets, how shockingly he is bring
up their children! Mrs. B. herself
manages otherwise; she is often heard
to ~~say~~ ^{remark} that she never allows her
children to disobey her, & her system
of home rule is worth our attention. Callers
are announced while the children are
in the drawing room. "Children, you
may run into the garden & play for half
an hour." "O mamma, dear, do let
us stay here in the window-niches; we
shall not disturb you in the least." "Very
well."

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well, you may stay, but you must make
no noise." But the sun in the window
niches grows fast & visitors, & the ladies
cannot make themselves heard. "Good
at me, children, this is not your place."
"Let us stay this once, mamma, &
we will promise to be ~~again~~ quiet: The
same sort of thing is ~~repeated~~, but still
the children remain, & the noise continues.
The visitors ~~besteately~~ retreat, & as they
leave the house, one lady remarks to
the other, "How completely Mrs. R. allows
her children to manage her!" "Yes, I I
always imagined hers was such a firm
rule; you know she often says she never
allows her children to disobey her."
"That may be, but it is because she always
gives them leave to do as they wish;
the children are quite up to the situation.
They beg in a coaxing way to be allowed
to do what their mother ^{may} have just prohibited,
& they get leave; they disobey with permission.
"Even that is better than no show of
obedience at all!" I am not ^{sure} that
it is; mothers & children are deceived by
this pretence, & no ^{real} efforts are made
to secure the ^{real} thing. It is
pretty enough to hear children coax
their parents, but I doubt if it is a good
sign; & soon, until the friends knock
at another door.

Such stories as these show much way
the stream flows, & that children are not
brought up as they used to be. Indeed, to an

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an old maid, the whole matter seems to lie in the nut-shell of that single phrase, parents seldom, now, attempt to bring up their children in the old sense; they make provision for the comfort, recreation, & education of the young people; but the formation of character, & manners, & even the regulation of conduct are left a good deal to circumstances, & no longer seem to be matters for forethought & deliberate plan on the part of parents.

But, although 'Cockers on see most of the game,' they may not know enough about it to be trustworthy critics, & everybody knows that old maid's children are perfect. ~~that better retire, & make room for~~ Another to speak for themselves, only premising that the speakers, Mothers & Daughters, are both practical, both thoughtful; & that the ^{ladies} elderly is one of the well-read, earnest-minded women produced in the days before girls were 'crammed to pass, & not to know.'

~~Dear Young People~~ Mother & Daughter in Council.

The world did not concern itself much about our coming upon my day, but now, there is no escape from the Education question; the journals are full of it; people talk of little else; improving buildings, Board Schools, & High Schools, rise on all hands; improving young persons correct ones old fashioned ideas with vanity memory.

"Well, Mother, what do you think fit all? You can judge better than we who live in the midst of this educational whirl. That it is not ~~altogether~~ ^{altogether} true, whizz! all by itself! — whiz! whiz! all by steam! — that a very real movement is going on, ~~alone, and~~ ^{alone, and} may concern your own children, and ~~you~~ ^{you} convey you. You see them devote themselves to school work as men do to the business of life; they are admirably taught & would not willingly neglect a preparation to miss a lesson. Full of purpose & effort, they are engrossed with affairs that leaves as little to do with us with their fathers office business; & yet, I believe, they miss much that the boys ~~as~~ ^{as} had in our home training. They, you, dear Mother, appear to have enjoyed all